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SURVEY SAYS RESIDENTS DOWN ON DOWNTOWN

RESPONDENTS TO CITY MATTERS POLL
OVERWHELMINGLY CALL FOR REVITALIZATION PAGE 4

HALIFAX

metro

Thursday, September 27, 2012



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Two men wanted in alleged sex assault

Man hunt. Police say pair could be in either Lunenburg County or HRM

ANDREW
RANKIN

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One of the two men wanted in the case of a forcible confinement and sexual assault of a 16-year-old boy in the South Shore is currently facing several sex charges.

RCMP are on a manhunt for David James Leblanc, 47, and Wayne Alan Cunningham, 31, after being contacted on Monday evening about a 16-year-old boy in need of help after being allegedly forcibly confined inside a residence on Faulkner Road in Upper Chelsea in Lunenburg County.

Leblanc is scheduled to attend a preliminary hearing in November on several child-pornography charges as well as charges of sexual assault and sexual interfer-

Quoted

"My impression was he didn't have any clothing on. He had chains wrapped around each wrist, but they weren't tethered together, and the same with his ankles."

Alice Arnold

ence.

The boy is currently safe after being taken to hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Charges of forcible confinement and sexual assault have been laid against both LeBlanc and Cunningham.

"We are asking the public for help and any details that will help us find these men," said Nova Scotia RCMP spokesman Sgt. Alain Leblanc.

Alice Arnold, 79, said she heard someone knocking at her back door in a panic



RCMP are on a manhunt for David James Leblanc, 47, left, and Wayne Alan Cunningham, 31, in the case of a forcible confinement and sexual assault of a 16-year-old boy. HANDOUTS

Monday night. She answered and saw a terrified boy with chains wrapped around his wrists and ankles and offered to call the police.

"Don't call the police," the teen told Arnold. "It will make it worse for me."

And then the teen took off, Arnold said.

"The kid was terrified, there's no doubt about that," Arnold said.

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Bottled-water ban being left up to schools — for now

Amendment. Auburn Drive already has ban in place; also being phased out at Citadel High



ALY THOMSON
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Halifax Regional School Board has taken a step towards banning the sale of bottled water in schools.

The issue first came to the board in February, when a group of students made a presentation about the environmental impacts of bottled water and demanded a board-wide ban.

But a staff report before the board Wednesday recommended leaving it up to the individual schools to decide.

After much debate, the board overwhelmingly voted to accept the staff's recommendation, but agreed to install water-filling stations in schools when the funds become available.

At that time, the school would be required to phase out the sale of bottled water.

Citadel High School student Hannah Cameron said she was happy with the last-minute amendment, but is still rallying for a complete ban.

Future leaders

"We are the future, (we) have to protect the environment. Bottled water is the direct contradiction of that."

Hannah Cameron, Citadel High School student

"I won't consider this a success until bottled water is out of all of our schools," said the 15-year-old during a presentation before the vote.

Board member Gina Conrod saw it "as an educational opportunity," mentioning that students should "carry the torch" to different schools with their campaign.

The staff report cited a number of problems in implementing a ban. It said about nine schools in the board do not have access to safe municipal water and depend on bottled water.

It also said ironing out the details would be tricky, as schools have independent contracts with cafeteria and vending machine suppliers.

Dartmouth High School has already looked into installing a water filling station at a cost of about \$2,000, staff said. A conventional water fountain costs about \$1,500.



Bottled water could soon be gone from many HRM schools. SCOTT OLSON/GETTY IMAGES

Board defers motion to move Grade 9 into high school



Students seen on lunch break at Citadel High School Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Thousands of students in the Halifax Regional School Board won't be headed to high school a year early just yet.

The board deferred a motion to integrate Grade 9 students into the region's high schools at a meeting Wednesday night.

Instead, the board will consider the grade reconfiguration when there is a boundary review or school closure, and the public will be consulted regardless.

The issue was hotly contested, with many board members requesting more

research and citing the public had not been consulted.

"There is an uproar from the public. To address it, they need to have a say in it," said board member Sheryl Blumenthal-Harrison, noting her email inbox has been buzzing with opposition.

"This came from the Department of Education because of the decline in enrolment ... to save money."

Staff noted it was not mandated by the province's Education Department to integrate Grade 9 students into high schools, but rather an option to consider.

Paul Bennett, the director of Schoolhouse Consulting in Halifax, said during a presentation to the board more time needs to be spent on investigating the move.

Bennett cited a number of grade-reconfiguration studies, many of which saw an increase in student dropouts, academic pressures and alienation from peers.

"Junior highs are just what they should be, which is a time where those between the ages of 12 and 16 are allowed to ... discover themselves," said Bennett before the vote. ALY THOMSON/METRO

Playground alert

Man approaching kids at Fairview school: Police

Halifax police are investigating two reports of a man approaching students at Fairview Heights Elementary School.

Police say that on Monday, a female student walking to school on Coronation Avenue was approached by

a man who touched her on the head and gave her some change.

There was another reported incident Wednesday, this time on school property, with police believing the same man approached another female student after hiding behind some playground equipment. He asked for the student's name and phone number, but the child ran inside and told school officials what had happened.

Police describe the man

as being white, between the ages of 60 and 70, with thinning gray hair.

"At this time we don't know what this man's motives were," said Halifax Regional Police spokesman Pierre Bourdages. "We want to speak with this man and see why he was doing this."

Police also say a man matching the same description was spotted in the area on Sept. 18, although no children were approached.

PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO

Nifty features

Metro Transit bridge terminal opening for viewing

People can finally get a closeup look at the finished Metro Transit bridge terminal in Dartmouth on Sunday, a day before its official opening.

The event will be held at the 24 Nantucket Ave. location in Dartmouth, from

noon until 2 p.m.

The new \$14.7-million facility was first scheduled to open on Aug. 27, but was pushed back to Sept. 17 and then rescheduled again for Oct. 1 while HRM worked to complete several odds and ends, from a pedestrian bridge to interior details.

The terminal is fully enclosed, climate-controlled and features a passenger waiting area and public washrooms.

ANDREW RANKIN/METRO

On the web



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This summer's hot weather comes at a cost. Scan the code to see how a drought turned crops to crisp.

1 NEWS

Everything's not so great in the downtown, poll finds

City Matters.

Respondents overwhelmingly call for revitalization



RUTH DAVENPORT
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HRM residents from every corner of the municipality want the downtown to get a facelift, and aren't impressed with efforts so far.

The 2012 City Matters survey, conducted for Metro Halifax and the Greater Halifax Partnership by MQO Research, shows 84 per cent of respondents think revitalizing the downtown area is either important or very important.

"Elections get won on three, four, five per cent over 50 and sometimes less than 50," said Craig Wight, MQO vice-president of research. "And here's pretty well everybody saying that downtown should be revitalized."

The poll surveyed 603 HRM residents, and Wight says the concern for the urban core is universal.

"I know if we ran the num-



Work continues on the new Halifax Public Library on Spring Garden Road on Wednesday. JEFF HARPER/METRO

bers in rural and urban, you'd see some differences," he said. "But it's not as though everyone in rural wouldn't be concerned — because almost everyone is concerned."

A question about the quality of work the city is doing to

revitalize the downtown core garnered a mean score of 5.6 out of 10.

Just 14 per cent of respondents gave a grade of eight or better.

Fred Morley, the Greater Halifax Partnership's execu-

tive vice-president, says the message "screams" out from the survey.

"People understand that it's important to have a healthy heart, whether you're a person or a community," he said. "If it's not in good shape, you're

By the numbers

How important is it to revitalize your downtown area?

- Very important: 46%
- Important: 38%
- Neither important nor unimportant: 8%
- Unimportant: 5%
- Very unimportant: 2%
- Refused/don't know: 1%

Please rate how good a job your city is doing to revitalize your downtown area:

- 5.6/10

Quoted

"It's important to keep the ball rolling to make sure ... that there are ongoing investments, not just in new buildings but in streetscaping and making the downtown a very welcoming and hospitable place."

Fred Morley, Greater Halifax Partnership executive vice-president

world, across North America ... their impression is formed by what they see in the downtown," he said. "And if it's not a good impression, if it's less safe, less clean than other cities they've seen, they take note."

Morley says the core is starting to shape up as several major developments get underway, and momentum needs to be maintained.

"Whether it's public investment in various kinds of facilities, whether it's green space, public art, people recognize that having a vibrant, interesting downtown is good for business," he said.

going to have problems."

Morley points out that potential investors who come to Nova Scotia, as well as most tourists and convention participants, will visit downtown Halifax at some point — and they should like what they see. "People from across the

Health-care access deemed spotty in some places



Access to emergency care in HRM scored high in the City Matters survey.

METRO FILE

Assessments of health-care services in Halifax are pretty positive, according to the 2012 City Matters survey — with a few exceptions.

Mean scores for overall health care and access to emergency care, family doctors and dental care were all above seven on a scale of one to 10.

However, those scores fell in three other categories.

Access to assisted living and nursing care for seniors received a mean score of 6.3, while access to addiction services received a score of 6.2 and access to mental-health services 5.7.

Craig Wight, vice-president

of research for MQO Research, points out that the "don't know" response in all three was quite high — from 27 to 41 per cent.

"So it's one of those communication things. Is it really worse or is it a case that people aren't aware?" he said.

One mental-health advocate says the numbers reflect a persistent lack of awareness about mental illness and the stigma attached to it.

"It should be lower, because most people know someone with a mental illness, but people don't talk about it," said Stephen Ayer, executive director of the Schizophrenia Soci-

Mental illness

- One in five Canadians will experience a mental illness in their lifetime. The remaining four will have a friend, family member or colleague who will.

Source: Centre for Addiction and Mental Health

ety of Nova Scotia.

Ayer says access to mental-health and addiction services has been problematic for HRM residents for several years.

He says the wait list for children and teens remains around a year at the IWK, but a new Capital Health program called "First Visit" is helping patients see a clinician in short order — though delays to see a psychiatrist can still be significant.

"I've had people call me almost in tears saying they can't see a psychiatrist, they're referred to groups or they keep seeing nurses," he said.

Ayer says the problem is an overall lack of funding for mental-health services, which contributes to a lack of psychiatrists and psychologists in the province.

RUTH DAVENPORT/METRO

For each of the following areas of health care in your community, please rate on a scale from one to 10 where one is 'poor' and 10 is 'excellent':

Overall health care in your community:

7.3

Access to emergency care:

7.4

Access to a family doctor:

7.1

Access to dental care:

7.9

Access to assisted living and nursing care for seniors:

6.3

28% Don't know

Access to mental-health care:

5.7

27% Don't know

Access to addiction services:

6.2

41% Don't know

More to come this week

City Matters

- Thursday: Downtown development, health care
- Friday: City living
- Visit metronews.ca for all the stories published this week for the survey. Just look for the trending topic City Matters.

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Poll. Residents OK with nixing minority ridings

About half of Nova Scotians agree with a controversial report from the province's electoral boundaries commission and think Acadian and black ridings should not be retained, a new survey says.

The Corporate Research Associates study released on Wednesday says 47 per cent of residents thought each riding should have about the same number of voters, even if it means eliminating the protected ridings.

But the survey also shows that 41 per cent of respondents thought the ridings should be retained in order to ensure representation in the legislature from those minorities.

Another 11 per cent did not know or declined to answer.

Nova Scotia's Electoral Boundaries Commission recommended on Tuesday that the province's four designated min-

Survey details

- The survey asked 401 adult Nova Scotians between Aug. 15 and Sept. 6 and is accurate within 4.9 percentage points, 95 times out of 100.

ority ridings should be merged with other constituencies.

The commission had submitted a draft report in June that recommended retaining Preston, Clare, Argyle and Richmond, but the government ordered the group back to the drawing board, saying its mandate included making sure all ridings were within 25 per cent of the average number of voters — about 13,000.

None of the four ridings meet that threshold.

ALY THOMSON/FOR METRO

Surf on our turf. Film fest offers unique challenge



A picture of an interview in the documentary *Surfing and Sharks*. CONTRIBUTED

Surf's up this weekend in Halifax.

The third annual Canadian Surf Film Festival kicks off Thursday night at Empire Theatres in Park Lane Mall and runs until Sunday.

Premiering the festival will be *Surfing and Sharks*, a documentary that tracks professional surfers in some of the world's most shark-infested waters,

a news release said. The film showing begins at 7 p.m.

The festival is also encouraging both inexperienced and seasoned filmmakers to participate in its short-film challenge, with a screening spot at the London Surf Film Festival up for grabs.

Tickets for each screening are \$10 or \$75 for an all-access pass. **METRO**

Hants County

Arson charges laid against 2 in wharf fire

The RCMP say two people face charges in connection with a suspicious fire in Hants County last month. The Aug. 9 fire destroyed the wharf in Walton.

Police say 29-year-old Justin Shrum of Walton and 28-year-old Kelsey Moore of Hantsport each face one count of arson.

Both were arrested Tuesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Unclaimed lottery win

You just may be much, much richer than you think

Better rummage through your junk drawer — a million-dollar lottery ticket could still be floating around the Maritimes after nearly a year.

Atlantic Lottery says the ticket was purchased in Moncton, N.B., for the Oct. 12, 2011, draw and the \$1-million prize has gone unclaimed.

The corporation says players have a year to cash in. **METRO**



We're fallin' for you, September: Lovely weather at the beach

A pedestrian heads out for a walk on the boardwalk at McCormick's Beach in Eastern Passage on Wednesday. The high on Wednesday reached 19 C.

JEFF HARPER/METRO

Outsourcing jobs an option for N.S.

Provincial matters.

Government considers moving positions to private firm

Just letting them know

"We told our staff what's being considered: contracting out the service."

Department of Finance spokeswoman Michelle Lucas

ANDREW RANKIN

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The province is considering cutting two government departments, and as a result 110 civil-service jobs are at stake in Halifax.

Department of Finance spokeswoman Michelle Lucas confirmed the Corporate Information Systems division and Health Administrative Systems Project are part of the more than \$20-million-dollar-a-year SAP program, which the province is current-

ly reviewing.

Lucas said the affected employees were informed of the proposed plan Monday.

According to Lucas, both departments' work would be outsourced to a "globally recognized" IT company looking to set up in Halifax.

"Essentially, it would be a different service model," said Lucas.

A contract has yet to be signed with the unnamed company, but Lucas said a final decision should be made

in the next two weeks. The name of the company could not be disclosed for confidentiality reasons, she said.

Nova Scotia Government and General Employees Union were meeting with potentially affected employees Tuesday and a spokeswoman said the group wasn't in a position to comment on the situation.

No jobs losses are expected. But the majority of the jobs would be privatized because the company would hire most of the employees

and a small number would remain employed with the province.

"In the (next) few weeks, we certainly would have more to tell our employees," said Lucas.

Lucas wouldn't disclose the financial details of the proposed contract. But she said it would be in the best interest of Nova Scotians.

A review into the provincial government's IT department has been operating under the code name "Project Kayak."

Before he resigned from cabinet, former finance minister Graham Steele called SAP a "big, expensive system," but said the province was not considering moving away from it.



People lunching at The Bicycle Thief restaurant last month. JEFF HARPER/METRO

Restaurateurs sick of red tape: Poll

The municipality's restaurateurs are frustrated with Halifax City Hall's red tape and commercial taxes, a new survey from the Canadian Restaurant and Foodservices Association says.

The survey shows nine out of 10 respondents say reducing red tape and commercial tax rates are important and will be on the minds of restaurant owners leading up

to the Oct. 20 election.

It says fewer than two in 10 respondents believe council understands what the restaurant industry contributes to the municipality's economy, culture and vibrancy.

"Our local government is working against restaurant owners instead of creating conditions for success. This is a wake-up call," the association's Atlantic vice-president

Luc Erjavec said in a news release.

The survey also says that 32 per cent of restaurants scaled back on expansion plans due to the economy and bureaucratic red tape.

The survey asked 81 people from food-service businesses across the municipality between June 15 and Aug. 1 and carries a margin of error of 10 per cent. **ALY THOMSON/FOR METRO**

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Egypt newspaper opts for cartoons in response to perceived insults to Islam

Non-violent protest.

Daily newspaper Al Watan says the move was 'a civilized reaction to all that has happened'

Amid outrage sparked by perceived insults to Islam, one Egyptian newspaper has decided to fight cartoons with cartoons.

Al Watan daily says it is responding to the crude caricatures published last week by a satirical Parisian weekly in kind: a series of sketches critiquing relations between the Arab world and the West.

The paper says they are a "civilized" alternative to the violent protests across the Muslim world sparked by a low-budget anti-Islam film produced in the United States. "Nothing cracks cartoons but cartoons," said the banner splashed over the two-page spread published this week.



Egyptian cartoonist Khalid Abdul-Ati holds a copy of the Egyptian Al Watan daily newspaper with a two-page spread of cartoons with a headline in Arabic that reads "nothing cracks cartoons but cartoons," inside his office at the newspaper's headquarters in Cairo on Wednesday. NASSER NASSER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

One drawing, captioned "Western glasses for the Islamic world," features a pair of eyeglasses framing the burning World Trade Center towers.

Another shows a flashlight

wrapped in an American flag pointed at a picture of an angry turbaned man with a knife, ignoring a peaceful Muslim.

Both seem intended to suggest that the only image

seen by Western audiences of the Muslim world was that of terrorism. Mohamed El Barguti, an editor at Al Watan, told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the cartoons were a "model of a civilized

reaction to all that has happened." The paper published the drawings to show that "burning and killing" is not the proper response to insults to Islam, he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Freedom of expression

The newspaper's decision comes amid a debate over freedom of expression in both Muslim and Western countries over the reaction to the film *Innocence of Muslims*.

- **Violence.** Over 50 people have been killed in violence linked to the video over the past two weeks. In Egypt, protesters breached the U.S. Embassy.
- **Provocation.** Last week, the provocative French magazine *Charlie Hebdo* published a set of crude cartoons playing off the film and ridiculing the violent reaction to it.
- **Response.** President Barack Obama and other Western officials have condemned the film, but said that no speech justifies the violent response.



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Red Bull heir pays off family of cop he killed

Common practice.

Vorayuth still faces criminal charges after hitting victim with his Ferrari in Bangkok and dragging his body

The billionaire family of a Red Bull energy-drink heir accused of killing a police officer in a hit-and-run accident paid the officer's siblings about \$100,000 in a deal aimed at avoiding a civil lawsuit, police said Wednesday.

Vorayuth Yoovidhya, 27, is charged with driving a Ferrari that struck the officer and dragged his body down a Bangkok street earlier this month.



Vorayuth Yoovidhya was taken into custody last month after driving into a Bangkok cop. AP FILE

The Yoovidhya family paid the officer's siblings 3 million baht (\$97,000 US) last week, police Lt.-Col. Viradon Thubthimdee said. He said

the settlement will protect Vorayuth from a civil lawsuit.

"We sometimes call this a 'funeral fee.' If the victim's party is satisfied with the amount of money, then they will not seek compensation through a court," Viradon said.

The payment, however, does not protect Vorayuth from criminal charges of causing death by reckless driving and fleeing to avoid arrest. If convicted, he faces up to 10 years in jail and a fine of 20,000 baht (\$666).

The payment from the extremely wealthy family is also unlikely to quell public outrage over the incident and an initial attempt to cover up Vorayuth's alleged involvement by arresting a bogus suspect. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**



Not-so-basic training

Emergency responders approach a sunken car during a training exercise in Pemberton, B.C., Wednesday. Emergency personnel from across western Canada were in Pemberton to take part in a vehicles-in-water training exercise — the first of its kind in Canada. JONATHAN HAYWARD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Pining police

Ottawa cop demoted for online snooping

An Ottawa police officer has been reprimanded for repeatedly accessing police databases to snoop on a former lover's partner and friends.

Staff Sgt. Lyse Fournier was demoted to the rank of sergeant for seven months after she pleaded guilty to two counts of insubordination under the Police

Services Act.

Fournier admits to using the Canadian Police Information Centre and Record Management System records 169 times for non-employment-related reasons between January of 2005 and December of 2008.

The senior officer hearing the case says it appears Fournier became so wrapped up in her personal issues that she was blind to her obligations to the police service.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Massachusetts

Sex change for killer on state tab

Officials in Massachusetts plan to appeal a judge's decision to grant a convicted murderer's request for sex reassignment surgery. Michelle Kosilek was named Robert when convicted of a 1990 murder. U.S. District Judge Mark Wolf ruled in favour of Kosilek's surgery request. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Lawsuit settlement

UC to pay Occupy protesters \$1M

The University of California has agreed to pay \$1 million to settle a lawsuit filed by demonstrators who were pepper-sprayed during an Occupy protest at UC Davis last fall, according to a preliminary settlement filed Wednesday.

The Nov. 18, 2011, incident, during which a police officer casually dispensed orange pepper spray in the faces of non-violent protesters,

prompted national outrage, angry campus protests and calls for the resignation of Chancellor Linda Katehi after online videos went viral.

Under the settlement, UC would pay \$30,000 to 21 plaintiffs and an additional \$250,000 to their attorneys.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Lt. John Pike of the Davis police uses pepper spray to move protesters last year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Union convention

B.C. towns vote to decriminalize pot

British Columbia's municipal politicians have waded into the national marijuana debate by voting in favour of decriminalizing pot and studying the benefits of taxing and regulating it.

Mayors and councillors attending the annual Union of B.C. Municipalities convention were backed Wednesday by the Victoria-area community of Metchosin to support

marijuana decriminalization during a stirring debate.

"I tried it when I was younger, and I turned out OK," said Prince George Coun. Brian Skakun.

The majority said it was time B.C. did something to counter the violent control organized crime has over the marijuana industry — estimated to be worth \$7 billion annually. But Tom Siddon, a B.C. Interior regional district politician, said this would send the wrong message to young people. "This is not a remedy." THE CANADIAN PRESS



Screengrab images from surveillance video shown at the Charbonneau Commission in Montreal Wednesday. A police detective showed the video of prominent construction bosses and high-ranking members of the Rizzuto crime family exchanging cash. THE CANADIAN PRESS/HO

Mafia dealings caught on video

Relevance. Evidence against construction industry never used because it wasn't pertinent in RCMP's drug investigation

Hours of police video of Mafia backroom dealings — the sort seen in Hollywood films — was played at a public inquiry into corruption Wednesday.

The memorable scenes included the one-time don of the country's most powerful Mafia family, the late Nicolo Rizzuto, at meetings with construction-industry players where he received wads of cash and stuffed them into his socks.

Quebec's corruption inquiry has promised to examine ties between organized crime, the construction industry and the world of political-party financing.

After months of anticipation, it witnessed video evidence of financial links between the underworld and the construction world.

The images were gathered by the RCMP as part of surveillance operations in 2004 and 2005 — and they were largely ignored until now.

Construction industry boss-

Operation Colisee

- Videos were shot during a five-year investigation that led to mass arrests in 2006 — the largest sweep against the Italian Mafia in Canadian history.
- The operation helped precipitate the decline of the Rizzuto empire, many of whose members are now in jail or dead.
- Vito Rizzuto, the most powerful member in the family when arrested in 2004, will be released from a U.S. prison Oct. 6.

es were seen handing cash to Rizzuto or other Mafia types; there were also scenes from a Christmas party where businessmen and senior members of the Cosa Nostra exchanged affectionate two-cheek kisses.

The scenes were gathered by cameras hidden at an east-end Montreal "social club" that served as the Mafia's headquarters. Significant amounts of cash — as much as \$20,000 at a time — exchanged hands.

The Mounties fought in court to keep from sharing the evidence but Quebec's Charbonneau Commission won that court battle to access the footage. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Key ingredient in bath-salts drug now illegal

Alleviating confusion.

The government says people shouldn't confuse the street drug's name with legitimate bath products

The federal government is banning a key ingredient found in the street drug known as bath salts.

The compound, called MDPV, will now be treated the same as cocaine or heroin.

Health Minister Leona Aglukkaq says the new rules make it illegal to possess, traffic, import or export the substance.

The compound can be used in legitimate research if authorized by regulation.

The minister says the decision to ban MDPV follows concerns expressed by health

Playing with your head

The bath-salts street drug is said to have mind-altering properties.

officials about the health and safety risks associated with its use.

She says police and the Canada Border Services Agency are also concerned about the substance's grow-

ing popularity and availability.

The government stressed that people shouldn't confuse MDPV and its street name with legitimate bath products.

The Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police welcomed the ban, calling it "an important step in stopping organized criminal groups from acquiring and profiting from this illegal substance."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Minister of Health Leona Aglukkaq announces during a news conference in Ottawa on Wednesday that additional chemicals are regulated under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

\$3.1M lawsuit. Manitoba pharmacy misrepresented NIHB claims: Ottawa

A Prairie pharmacist and his former drug store face a multimillion-dollar lawsuit from the federal government over allegations they fleeced the aboriginal health-benefits plan.

A newly released report and documents filed in a Manitoba court allege Murvin Abas and Fisher Pharmacy submitted phoney claims to the Non-Insured Health Benefits program, overcharged for some products and had excessively high dispensing fees.

Ottawa is now suing Abas and the pharmacy for \$3.1 million.

In a statement of claim filed in January, the government alleges Abas "fraudulently and negligently misrepresented information and claims" submitted to the NIHB program.

"Abas made the representations of false and inaccurate claims to the NIHB program fraudulently in that he knew the representations were false or he was reckless in not caring whether they were true or false and that Canada relied on the false or reckless misrepresentations in reimbursing Abas Pharmacy for the

Investigation

The claims are the latest to surface as part of a months-long investigation by The Canadian Press into alleged wrongdoing involving federal money for aboriginal health care. Those allegations include:

- **Grocery shopping.** Staff at a remote nursing station in northern Ontario allegedly authorized expensive medical flights to go grocery shopping.
- **Alleged misuse.** A New Brunswick First Nations health centre where half a million dollars that came from federal contribution agreements was allegedly misappropriated.

claims submitted under the NIHB," the government alleges in its statement of claim.

None of the allegations have been proven in court, and a statement of defence has yet to be filed.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sentencing

Fake cancer patient gets jail

A U.S. woman who pretended to have cancer to raise money for breast implants has been sentenced to a year in jail and three years of probation.

A court spokesman in Phoenix says 27-year-old Jami Lynn Toler was sentenced Wednesday. She had pleaded guilty to a theft charge in a plea agreement.

Police reports show Toler told her former boss she needed a double mastectomy and breast reconstruction but was uninsured. She told the same story to her mother and grandparents.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Geneva hearings

UN confronts Canada on rights of children

United Nations officials say they're concerned vulnerable Canadian children may be falling through the cracks of a fractious federal system that lacks accountability and a clear strategy.

In hearings in Geneva to examine Canada's adherence to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Ottawa was repeatedly taken to task for incoherence about how federal and provincial programs actually help kids and on the legality of corporal punishment.

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Ambrose feels pro-life heat

Bill defeated. But Status of Women minister criticized after she votes in favour of it

A Tory MP's landmark pro-life bid was defeated in the House of Commons on Wednesday night — and the prime minister helped torpedo it.

Stephen Harper voted against the motion to have Parliament study the definition of a human being.

But 10 ministers voted to keep the debate alive.

Quoted

"Mr. Harper can't have it both ways. He can't claim that he's against reopening the abortion debate and having a sitting minister vote in favour of reopening the abortion debate."

Thomas Mulcair,
NDP leader.

Status of Women Minister Rona Ambrose was among the cabinet members who rose to vote in favour of Stephen Woodworth's private motion — and was roundly criticized for it.

"It's unacceptable," said NDP MP Niki Ashton.

"Stephen Harper told us his government wasn't willing to reopen the debate and you have the minister in charge of the status of women voting (in favour)."

She said it raises questions whether Ambrose should retain her duties.

"I think it's shameful that the minister ... in charge of moving forward on women's equality today stood up in the House to essentially attack a woman's right to choose."

The motion was defeated by a vote of 203-91.

Harper had called Woodworth's motion "unfortunate," and said he would vote against it because of his electoral commitment to not reopen the abortion debate.

But more than 80 Conservative MPs did not appear to view their vote as a contradiction to the election promise.

THE CANADIAN PRESS WITH FILES FROM
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Status of Women minister Rona Ambrose, pictured on Monday, voted in favour of the controversial pro-life motion on Wednesday. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stephen Woodworth

MP wants to protect the unborn

When does human life begin?

Currently, the Criminal Code defines a child as a human only after it emerges alive from the mother's body at birth.

Stephen Woodworth, below, and his supporters point out that the landmark 1988 ruling confirming abortion rights in Canada also noted the potential need to protect unborn babies at some point during a pregnancy.



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Will Justin jump? Trudeau plays coy

Justin Trudeau's star power was vividly on display Wednesday as reports of his imminent entry into the Liberal leadership race sparked a media frenzy on Parliament Hill.

But the 40-year-old Montreal MP coyly refused to confirm or deny reports he'll announce his leadership bid Tuesday.

A phalanx of television cameras and outstretched microphones besieged Liberals outside their usually quiet weekly caucus meeting.

It was a testament to Trudeau's magnetic ability to attract attention.

"Thank you very much for your interest," he said on his way out of the meeting.

"I'm pleased to hear all the buzz and all the interest in the Liberal party's fortunes.

"But I have nothing further today ... I promise I will let you know when I have something to announce."

Liberals are desperate to avoid sinking into oblivion after being battered in the 2011 election.

That has made Trudeau the virtual front-runner in a leadership race that hasn't yet officially begun.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



The Trudeau tempest: Justin negotiates a microphone maze as he enters a Liberal caucus meeting on Parliament Hill on Wednesday. Reports of his imminent entry into the Liberal leadership race sparked a media frenzy.

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

The man

Some folksy facts about Justin Trudeau, the son of Liberal icon and former prime minister Pierre Trudeau:

- **Birth.** He was born on Christmas Day, 1971. Brother Sacha was born two years later on the same day.
- **Marriage.** He is married

to former Quebec TV personality and model Sophie Grégoire. They have two children.

- **Politics.** In a 2012 interview, he said he would consider sovereignty for Quebec if he believed Canada was becoming "Stephen Harper's Canada."

Uruguay legalizes abortion in a squeaker vote

Chamber of Deputies.

President will allow it to become law if Senate approves; bill allows a legal abortion in first 12 weeks

Legislators have voted in Uruguay by a razor-thin margin to legalize abortion.

In Latin America, where the majority of people are Roman Catholic, no country except Cuba has made abortions accessible to all women during the first trimester of pregnancy.

The vote in Uruguay's Chamber of Deputies passed just before midnight Tuesday after several lawmakers on each side of the debate said they could not in good conscience go along with their

The power of one

1

Passing by a single vote: Legislators voted 50-49 to legalize abortion in Uruguay

parties, and allowed substitutes to vote in their stead.

President Jose Mujica says he will allow it to become law, if the Senate approves the changes.

The Senate already has approved an even more liberal version of the landmark abortion measure.

The Chamber of Deputies' legislation would give women the right to a legal abortion during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, and decriminalize later-term abortions when the mother's life is at risk or when the fetus is so deformed that it wouldn't survive after birth. In cases of rape, abor-

tions would be legal during the first 14 weeks.

Deputy Pablo Abdala of the opposition National Party vowed Wednesday to promote a popular referendum to overturn the law, if Mujica doesn't veto it, calling the measure a violation of human rights.

However, polls suggest many more Uruguayans favour abortion rights than oppose them.

A survey this month showed 52 per cent of Uruguayans would vote to legalize abortion if the question were put to the people, while 34 per cent would vote against it.

Cuba, which decriminalizes abortions in the first 10 weeks of pregnancy, is the only country in Latin America where legal abortion is common.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

German Catholics

Religious taxes must be paid to be in the church

Germany's top administrative court has ruled that Catholics who opt out of paying religious taxes must automatically leave the church as well.

It's a victory for the Catholic Church in Germany, which receives more than \$5.14 billion annually from a surcharge of up to nine per cent on income-tax bills of Catholics. Germany's bishops said last week that believers who refuse to pay the tax won't be able to receive the sacraments.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Indian Kashmir

Cops use batons on paramedics

Police in Indian-controlled Kashmir used batons to disperse hundreds of female paramedic students protesting recent exam results. The students were demanding their tests be rechecked after 5,000 students out of 7,000 failed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Remembering the Joola 10 years on

Bouquets of flowers lie in front of a sculpture of the African continent at the edge of the Atlantic Ocean, following a ceremony commemorating the 10th anniversary of the 2002 Joola ferry disaster, in Dakar, Wednesday. With an official death toll of 1,863 and just 64 survivors, the Joola remains one of the deadliest disasters in maritime history.

REBECCA BLACKWELL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Iran's Ahmadinejad talks, Canadians walk out again

United Nations.
Tensions run high at UN meeting only weeks after Canada closed embassy in Iran

Canadian diplomats walked out Wednesday as Mahmoud Ahmadinejad subjected the United Nations to more of his trademark political vitriol, but the Iranian president brushed off Canada's anti-Iran bent even as Tehran warned its citizens to avoid the country for fear of rampant "Iranophobia."

It wasn't the first time the Canadian delegation has walked out on Ahmadinejad — they did it last year and in 2009 at the United Nations annual gathering of world leaders.

But tensions are running higher than ever between the two countries after Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird shuttered Canada's embassy in Iran three weeks ago.

"We will not sit silently in

our chairs and listen to Iran's hateful, anti-Western, anti-Semitic views," Baird's press secretary, Rick Roth, said. "If anything, today's address only reinforces our decision earlier this month to suspend diplomatic relations with Iran."

Ahmadinejad was dismissed of Canada in a news conference following his speech to the UN.

"I fundamentally don't see this as a very important issue. Of course we did not have a substantial economic relationship with Canada," he said.

Ahmadinejad didn't mention Canada by name during his speech, but a statement was posted Wednesday by the Islamic Republic News Agency, Iran's official news agency. The statement, attributed to Iran's Foreign Ministry, warned Iranian citizens against travelling to Canada, citing "Islamophobia," "Iranophobia" and a "double standard" in Canada towards human rights.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Mahmoud Ahmadinejad gestures at the United Nations General Assembly Wednesday. JASON DECROW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Morsi: Won't rest until Syrian civil war ends

Egypt's new President Mohammed Morsi, making his debut on the global stage at the United Nations, said Wednesday that he will not rest until the civil war in Syria is brought to an end.

He called the fighting there, which opposition groups say has killed at

least 30,000 people, the "tragedy of the age" and one that "we all must end." And he invited all nations to join an effort to stop the bloodshed that began about 18 months ago when opposition figures rose up against President Bashar Assad's regime.

Morsi, an Islamist and

key figure in the once-banned Muslim Brotherhood, opened his remarks to the UN General Assembly by celebrating himself as Egypt's first democratically elected leader who was swept into office after what he called a "great, peaceful revolution."

He said the first issue for

the world body should be certifying the rights of the Palestinian people.

"The fruits of dignity and freedom must not remain far from the Palestinian people," he said, adding that it was "shameful" that UN resolutions are not enforced.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Mohammed Morsi THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Analysis

Iran's leader politically wounded

Iran's president has no trouble making himself heard: rumbling through the UN's annual world gathering this week with comments bashing homosexuality, describing Israel as a doomed misfit in the Middle East and predicting a rising tide against U.S. "bullying."

On one point, however, he is mum — his plans after elections next June that will close out his second and final term.

Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has so far dodged questions about possible post-presidential roles with cryptic replies or inscrutable silence. Yet this much is clear: Despite his bravado at the UN and other international forums, he heads into the last months of his presidency politically wounded at home from skirmishes with Iran's ruling system.

His departure as president also could lead to a more toned-down approach from Iran in general over its nuclear program and possible deal-making with the West, analysts say.

Iran's theocracy directs all key policies — including the pace of nuclear development and negotiations with the West — leaving the president, in theory, to shepherd domestic affairs and other issues. In reality, however, Ahmadinejad has reshaped the office into an international soapbox with messages that may or may not be sanctioned from the top. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Alberta's rat pack

Medicine Hat rid of giant problem

A giant rats' nest has been destroyed in a southern Alberta city fighting to get rid of the rodents.

An official in Medicine Hat says staff from the city, the county and the province got rid of an 80-metre-long nesting site at the landfill on Tuesday. Ed Jollymore says no live rats were found.

Alberta's rat-free status

was put into question last month when the nest was discovered at the dump. At least 100 Norway rats have been killed by city staff.

Jollymore says it took six hours for 21 workers and two excavators to dismantle the nest. He says the "rat patrol" will continue to monitor the area and put out poison bait as part of Operation Haystack. Poisoned hay bales have been dropped around the city to try to stop the flow of vermin into neighbourhoods. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Grenade launcher

Fake terrorist arrested over hoax

Phoenix police say they've arrested a man after he reportedly dressed a teen relative in a sheet and sent him into a street to aim a fake rocket-propelled grenade launcher at passing cars.

Police spokesman officer James Holmes says 39-year-old Michael D. Turley was arrested Monday on charges of knowingly giving a false impression of a terrorist

act, endangerment and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. Holmes said Turley filmed the teen pointing the fake grenade launcher at passing cars on July 28.

Responding police didn't make any arrests after Turley told them he was making a movie. Police made the arrest after the self-described filmmaker reportedly posted a video on YouTube that said he was testing how fast Phoenix police responded to the mock terrorist. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

2 near misses spark safety changes at O'Hare airport

Takeoffs, landings.

Runways don't intersect but are close enough that air traffic can cross paths

New air-traffic-control procedures have been put in place at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport to try to eliminate the risk of midair collisions over a pair of runways, after two near misses last year raised serious concerns, federal officials said.

The planes involved in the incidents, which occurred three months apart in 2011, came within a few hundred feet of each other, according to a preliminary report released this week by the National Transportation Safety Board. No one was hurt.

Revised procedures include the extension of a warning system to automatically alert controllers if a plane is approaching to land on one runway as an aircraft is taking off on the other.

The two air-traffic controllers responsible for the runways also are now seated

Close shaves

- The first near miss, on May 16, 2011, involved a SkyWest plane approaching one runway and an ExpressJet Airlines jet taking off on the other runway. The ExpressJet captain told investigators he saw the landing plane heading straight for his and frantically told his co-pilot to "stay low."

- The other near miss took place Aug. 8, 2011. A Chautauqua Airlines flight was landing and nearly struck a Trans State Airlines flight taking off. The Trans State's pilot said it was too late to abort their takeoff and he had to take evasive action by slightly delaying takeoff.

beside each other to better communicate. And a work station for supervisors has been removed after controllers complained it obstructed their view and forced them to yell vital information across the room. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Flood water creeps higher

Natalie Stroughair sandbags a taxi office in York, northern England, as the River Ouse continues to rise Wednesday following the torrential rainfalls of the past few days. People living close to the River Ouse in the York and Selby areas were bracing themselves as water levels continued to rise and the Environment Agency issued a range of flood warnings for the area. **JOHN GILES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Readership numbers. Metro jumps by 24 per cent in Halifax

It's official: Haligonians love their Metro. In fact, according to results released yesterday, the Newspaper Audience Data-bank (NADbank) pegs Metro Halifax daily readership at 92,000 — a whopping increase of 24 per cent over last year.

"This is unbelievable news," says Greg Lutes, Vice President and Group Publisher, Metro Eastern Canada.

"It speaks to the vital role Metro plays in delivering the news Haligonians want. We especially recognize the support of our readers, advertisers and staff in helping us realize this kind of unprecedented growth."

Almost 1.6 million Canadians across Canada read Metro every day, an increase of 247,400 readers over NADbank 2010/2011 results.

Initial results for Metro London and Metro Winnipeg,

launched in April 2011, speak to the success of the Metro brand — NADbank pegs London daily readership at 35,400 and Winnipeg at 72,700.

Results for Metro Saskatoon and Metro Regina, launched in April this year, will be available in September 2013.

"These results confirm the power of the Metro brand to deliver the news youthful, active metropolitans want," says Bill McDonald, President of Metro English Canada.

"We focus on a unique package of local, national and international news, plus lifestyle and entertainment news that matters to our readers. Add our enhanced distribution strategies and creative marketing initiatives and it is no wonder more Canadians than ever pick up Metro to start their day."

Market Minute



DOLLAR
101.50¢
(-0.48¢)

Natural gas: \$3.023 (+9.9¢)
Dow Jones: 13,413.51 (-44.04)



TSX
12,232.86 (-24.32)



OIL
\$89.98 US (-\$1.39)



GOLD
\$1,753.60 US (-\$12.80)

Porking out. British farm group forecasts worldwide bacon shortage for 2013

A British farming organization is predicting a worldwide shortage of bacon and pork next year.

The National Pig Association says global drought conditions are driving up the price of grain, a major staple in hog feed.

It says pig farmers around the world are selling their herds because retail prices are not rising fast enough to cover the cost of record-high pig-feed costs.

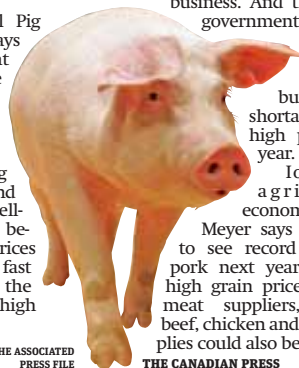
In the U.S., the

government has introduced a pork-buying program in a bid to keep its pig farmers in business. And the Chinese government is putting pork into cold storage, as a buffer against shortages and high prices next year.

Iowa-based agricultural economist Steve Meyer says he expects to see record prices for pork next year. He says high grain prices affect all meat suppliers, meaning beef, chicken and turkey supplies could also be affected.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Wanna take it outside? Take it online instead

'Wisdom of the crowd'

Dispute-resolution sites provide individuals and businesses with a faster, low-cost means for settling conflicts

Never mind telling your side of the story in court, or to your best friend. Cyber justice is starting to be dispensed to resolve civil disputes and personal disagreements. Sometimes it's left to ordinary folk to vote on winners and losers.

Take eQuibbly, for example. It lets people bring their personal and business disputes online — anything from complaints about loud music to boyfriends ogling other women to how restaurant tips should be shared.

Founder and president Lance Soskin cites the case of the ogling boyfriend and noted that people agreed with his fiancée that he should concentrate on her when they're out together.



The website eQuibbly is seen Wednesday in Montreal. It lets people bring their personal and business disputes online. RYAN REMIOWZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

"He responded with, 'Well I gave up my porn for her' and he thought that was quite an achievement," Soskin said from Toronto. "Eventually people on the site just convinced him he was being rude and uncouth."

Participants read both sides of an argument and vote on who wins the dispute, which Soskin called "crowd voting." The web application is free to its users and obviously does not deal with criminal cases or more serious matters like

divorce.

Technology analyst Duncan Stewart said theoretically the "crowd" should be impartial. "There's this whole wisdom of the crowd thing — a million people know more than one person no matter how smart that one person is," said Stewart, director of Deloitte Canada Research for Technology, Media and Telecommunications.

Stewart said eQuibbly does what has been done informally for years and added "even

Quoted

"You can't go to court for a few hundred dollars."

Lance Soskin, founder of eQuibbly

things that might be settled by the courts might start being settled by the crowd because they're better."

eQuibbly has a more serious side, though, which allows individuals and businesses to agree to a debate with a binding resolution.

Soskin sees shortfalls in the justice system that online dispute resolution might solve. "You can't go to court for a few hundred dollars," he said. "Most of the court systems in the U.S. and Canada are backlogged with thousands upon thousands upon thousands of cases."

The British Columbia government announced in May that it will set up an online tribunal to help people solve small civil claims outside court. There's also mylegalbriefcase.com, which helps guide people through Ontario's small claims court system. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Site makeover

MySpace revamp stars Timberlake

MySpace, the once-mighty social network turned entertainment site, is trying to stage yet another comeback with the help of Justin Timberlake.

The company posted a video this week that teases the New Myspace and lets people sign up for invitations to join. Based on the video, the new site looks like an entertainment-focused version of Pinterest, with a dash of Twitter and Facebook.

Timberlake, who is featured prominently in the video, will likely play a big part in the revamp. The pop star and a group of other investors bought MySpace last year from News Corp. for \$35 million US, mostly in stock. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



COMMUNITY GATHERING Housing Program Needs Assessment

A Program of the Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre

Friday, September 28, 2012 10am – 12pm

A light lunch will be provided.

The Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Center will be hosting a community gathering to share the findings of the Needs Assessment completed on Aboriginal homelessness in the HRM.

The Mi'kmaq Native Friendship Centre provides structured, social-based programs for Urban Aboriginal People.
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A (BLOODY) THUMB GOES UP, A CAR GOES BY ...



HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

After years of hitchhiking, my biggest tip is to never thumb with a bloody hand.

You might think that's stupid advice, perhaps suitable for some creature that doesn't

even have opposable thumbs (which is why dogs so rarely hitchhike).

But, trust me, it's important.

Recently, I've been hitchhiking Iceland, the country that leads the world in tourist spots that can actively kill you. (Typical sign: Welcome! Beware of steam explosions!)

I was on the one-lane "highway" heading from some death-by-ice attraction to some death-by-fire one, and several cars passed me. Not a big deal, but I decided to do my mental hitchhiking checklist.

Hitchin' a ride

I did have a first-aid kit with me, but I forgot the first rule of first aid: Remember that you have a first-aid kit with you.

- Standing where visible but too difficult to hit for points? Good.
- Eyes conveying "Don't hate me, I'm not American"? Check.
- Looking outdoorsy but not serial-killery? Whoops.

This is when I noticed my hand. A hangnail — throbbing

from cold weather and gushing from a blood disorder I have — meant my right hand had gone all Carrie White. I looked like maybe I had pulled a Temple of Doom on one of the sheep wandering the roadside.

I did have a first-aid kit with me, but I forgot the first rule of first aid: Remember that you have a first-aid kit with you.

Instead, I followed my memory from Boy Scouts and put a wet, woolen glove over top of it, which is probably what they would recommend. I'm not sure because I quit during Beavers.

After performing the medical equivalent of putting duct tape over the "Service Engine" light, somebody eventually stopped. I don't think the driver was unnerved when he heard "Don't be alarmed but there's a lot of blood on my hand." The nervous giggle afterward may have given him pause, though.

Thankfully, it all worked out. It always does.

People talk about how dangerous hitchhiking is, and the travel book I brought — the office of whose publisher is clearly ringed by rabid lawyers — goes so far as to say hitchhiking is "not rewarding." Of course hitchhiking has its dangers, but it seems a paranoid stance in a place where you're encouraged to swim in fault lines and volcanoes.

Hitching is one of the best ways to meet locals. It's cheap, and it's like love: When you find what you were looking for, you forget instantly about the long wait that came before.

Maybe the best thing about hitchhiking is that it's much easier than it seems. It's rare that something so easy to do elicits such instant wonder in people who never thought to try it.

But the secret's out now, I suppose, so if you've never considered it before feel free to sully your virgin thumb. Get a written sign if you like, stand in a straightaway where drivers have enough time to decide to stop, and wear bright colours for safety's sake. I find a nice blood red really catches the eye.



Rule of thumb: Conceal the blood. iStock

Who's at the wheel?



ERIC RISBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Google auto

Driverless car gets green light

A driverless car is seen at Google headquarters in Mountain View, Calif. Google has been developing autonomous car technology and lobbying for the regulations for years.

The company says autonomous cars can make roads safer, free commuters from the drudgery of driving and reduce congestion.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This many clicks

483,000

Google's fleet of a dozen computer-controlled vehicles — mostly Toyota Priuses equipped with self-driving technology — has logged more than 483,000 kilometres of self-driving without an accident, the company said.

Signed, sealed, driven

Legislation paves way for technology

Gov. Jerry Brown signed legislation earlier this week that will pave the way for driverless cars in California.

The legislation requires the California Department of Motor Vehicles to draft regulations for autonomous vehicles by Jan. 1, 2015. Currently, state law doesn't mention self-driving cars because the technology is so new.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

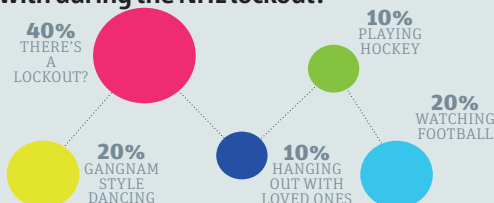
Drivers wanted

- Autonomous cars use computers, sensors and other technology to operate independently, but a "driver" can override the autopilot function any time.
- The regulations would allow vehicles to operate autonomously, but a licensed driver would still need to sit behind the wheel to serve as a backup operator.



Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

What will you replace watching hockey with during the NHL lockout?



Twitter

@ajzebadua: If I lived in Halifax, I would vote Tuxedo Stan the cat for mayor #seriously

@FeralSeagull: Ahhh! Fly away in terror from @HalifaxNoonGun. I've been living here for years and I'm still shocked once a day.

@michaelawhelann: If I lived in Halifax I'd probably go on the Harbour Hopper every single day #Nolie

@HockeyPuckers: My prediction: 2013 Memorial Cup will feature Halifax Mooseheads vs Sarnia Sting. MacKinnon/Drouin vs Yakupov/Galchenyuk. Go Halifax!

@BeautyLz_Mee: In #Halifax, you need to dress for the sun and warmth as well as for the rain and cold. In the same day, 1 way streets #GotsTaGo

@MeelaAuaduer: In #Halifax, you need to dress for the sun and warmth as well as for the rain and cold. In the same day, 1 way streets #GotsTaGo

Sweeney Todd kicks off Neptune's 50th year with a close shave

Bloody murder and good fun. Playing the title lead, actor Shane Carty talks up the musical theatre classic



BACKSTAGE PASS
Jenna Conter
halifax@metronews.ca

I'm a bit of a theatre snob. I have been spoiled by pilgrimages to New York's Broadway; I've seen Shakespeare on the stages of both London's Globe and Her Majesty's Theatre and I've tentatively taken in a handful of plays throughout Toronto's theatre district.

Suffice to say when our local Neptune Theatre advertises "the best season ever," though I remain supportive, I can't help but be skeptical.

Hesitantly, I shared this sentiment with Shane Carty, who leads the cast in Sweeney Todd.

Carty, originally from Kingston, Ont., shared my dissatisfaction with the overzealous grandeur of local theatre.

He modestly assured me that this show would shake my cynical beliefs to the core.

"I honestly think (Sweeney Todd) is the greatest musical ever written," he told me.

"It's just ingenious from start to finish."

With a background in theatre that traces through his high school days, seasoned Carty has been cast in Sweeney Todd on three separate occasions.

From the side of good — when he played Antony — and his current role, Carty has an interesting



Shane Carty, left, plays the role of Sweeney Todd on the Neptune Theatre stage. ANDREW CALEY/METRO

Best. Musical. Ever

"I honestly think (Sweeney Todd) is the greatest musical ever written.... It's just ingenious from start to finish."

Steven Laffoley

perspective on the play.

"It's neat to see how some people escape and some people, with every action they make, dig them-

selves deeper into inevitability," he said.

For Carty, "the single-minded path of revenge takes several turns so you

see different sides of these characters — it's violent and bloody but it's also very funny — a testament to how well it's written."

Stephen Sondheim's scripting skills aside, Carty's Sweeney Todd provides the cornerstone from which this cast takes their cue.

Calm, comedic, yet homicidal and deeply scarred, Sweeney Todd proves the perfect anniversary offering to both Neptune and its dot-

Details

Sweeney Todd runs through October 7 at Neptune Theatre. Visit neptunetheatre.com for ticket information.

2 SCENE

On the web



Qriket

Edward Norton, Snoop Dogg among celebrities to play Words With Friends for charity.

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metro

Don't hate him for being the Bachelor

Survey says

A new survey from Match.com, an online dating site, reveals that, unlike the 25 lucky ladies who will be battling for the heart of the Bachelor Canada, less than one in 10 Canadian women would go on a reality series to find love. In fact, most single Canucks (45 per cent) believe a first date on national television would be the most intimidating type of romantic rendezvous. Match.com dove into their vault of Canadian data to determine which contestant is most likely to win Brad's heart — at least according to statistics.

- **Blondes rule.** Single Canadian chaps (41 per cent) prefer flaxen-haired females over brunettes and redheads, and 46 per cent of men prefer women who have "medium" length hair. Lucky for the brown-haired Bachelor, the opposite is true of Canadian women. The majority of single ladies (54 per cent) swoon over brown-haired men.

- **No jock love.** The football-playing Bachelor might not be so fortunate in the job department. Only seven per cent of single Canadian women think being an athlete is an attractive profession. Those contestants that are in the medical field or are self-employed may have a leg up; these are the two sexiest professions, according to single Canadian men.

- **Singles still believe.** An overwhelming 76 per cent of Canadian singles believe in soul mates.

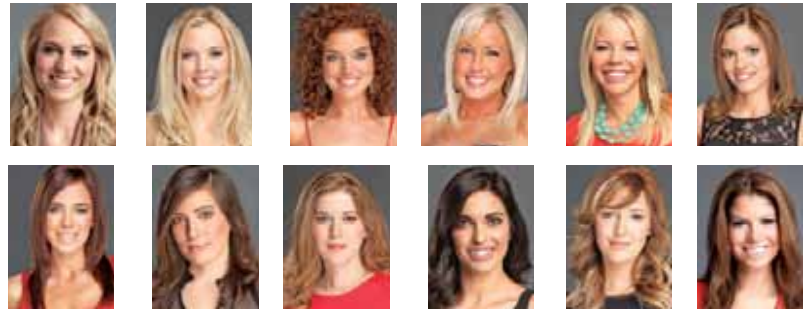


And in America...



The next U.S. Bachelor is Sean Lowe, a former Kansas State linebacker. HANDOUT

ABC says the next star of The Bachelor will be Sean Lowe, who was dumped on The Bachelorette. The network says the 28-year-old Dallas businessman will be the one doing the choosing when The Bachelor returns for its 17th edition. On the eighth edition of The Bachelorette, Lowe confessed his love for Emily Maynard but was eliminated just before the finale. ABC says Lowe is ready to look for love again. The 6-foot-3 Texan was a linebacker for Kansas State and worked in finance and insurance before starting a custom furniture business. The Bachelor returns in January.



Looking for love.

Former CFL player Brad Smith just wants to find the right woman — with whom he can build a life

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
Metro Vancouver

Brad Smith doesn't care if you hate on him for choosing to search for love in a different way.

The former CFL wide receiver-turned-first Bachelor Canada just wants to find someone to start his life with.

"When you go in and see 25 girls, you're not looking to love all 25," Smith said Wednesday.

"You're just looking for that one who's going to be with you until the end and that's all that matters."

"You just have to be in the best situation to know yourself and what works for you so you can find that person," he added.

"If she's not there, then don't pick anybody."

The show hasn't even started yet, but the 28-year-old already has his fair share of haters and critics.

"I don't care (about) being made fun of or chirped," he said.

"I understand that comes with the ground. People are just naturally not going to like the fact that you've chosen to do this because they don't believe in it."

But he adds that there are twice as many who are totally behind him in his quest for love

Quoted

"When you go in and see 25 girls, you're not looking to love all 25. You're just looking for that one who's going to be with you until the end and that's all that matters."

Canada's Bachelor Brad Smith, former CFL wide receiver for the Edmonton Eskimos

on a reality TV show, including his family (his dad is former CFL commissioner and senator Larry Smith) and his CFL buddies.

"I've got almost half of the Edmonton Eskimos team that are going to go my buddy's house to watch it every Wednesday night just because they're so excited," he said.

"They can make fun all they want, but they'll be there to support you. That's what boys are for."

The show won't be without the usual hot tub moments and kissing sessions, and Smith admits it'll be an "intensely awkward situation" for his parents to watch. "But they understand that it's part of the process and they're cool with it," he said.

Details

- **The Bachelor Canada.** Premieres Wednesday, Oct. 3 at 9 p.m. EST/PT on Citytv. (Following the premiere, the series moves to its regular time slot Wednesdays at 9:30 p.m. EST/PST, beginning October 10.

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Andre Braugher returns to TV on the Last Resort. HANDOUT

New television show

Where can you find it and when does the show kickoff?

- New series. The Last Resort premieres tonight on Global TV.
- Good reception. While

a show can hardly be considered a hit before it has even aired, the early reviews of it have been strong. But Braugher and the cast are resisting celebrating before they see the ratings.

Homicide star returning to television with Last Resort

Military thriller. A rogue submarine captain finds himself on the run from the U.S. army after a major missile incident

NED
EHRBAR
Metro World News

Veteran actor Andre Braugher returns to TV with Last Resort, an intriguing military thriller about a submarine captain who questions an order to launch nuclear missiles at Pakistan — only to have his sub fired upon by his own country. Braugher's Capt. Chaplin and crew seek refuge on an island in French Polynesia, making a stand against the country they used to fight for.

Toward the end of the first episode, Scott Speedman's character compliments your character for delivering a message with "just the right amount of crazy." What is the right amount of crazy?

You know, I don't think he's crazy, but he's in grief, and grieving people do crazy things. He's lost a wife, we learn that he's lost a son. He's lost everything he thought he was because he wasn't willing to kill potentially innocent people. And now he's a traitor. And he's grieving and he's betrayed. Part of it is a game and part of it is true. Part of it is a mask and part of it is truth, you know? So I don't know. I don't know from moment to moment exactly how crazy he is. I know that there's a wily trickster aspect to Chaplin. It's like a Jenga game. He's the kind of guy who knows which blocks to pull in order to either maintain or collapse. Crazy? Maybe, I don't know.

What made you want to come onboard with this show and play this character? He's a complicated man who wants to do things in the right way — and not because he's persnickety but because there are lives at stake. One of things that's most important to the show-runners as well as to me is that these are not

some closet peaceniks who decided, 'Well, now that we have a shoot order, we're going to disobey it.' If this order had come through the right way, they would've launched the missiles without delay. I was intrigued by his desire to do things right and to be judged credibly by history rather than be the guy who killed a million people because he didn't have enough balls to ask the right questions.

The premise puts your character in a pretty high-pressure, precarious situation. How will the show sustain itself for an entire season like that? Well, there's the enemy without and the enemy within. I don't know from which episode to which episode it will be. Our human nature is going to exert itself, and how we're going to reorganize ourselves — I don't know who's going to live and who's going to die. Sam (played by Speedman) and I are eventually going to be at odds because we're thinking

differently about the world. It's difficult to live with a man who has nothing to lose because the potential for him giving shocking orders rises because there's nobody on the other end.

Have you given any thought to putting down roots in Hawaii, where the show shoots?

We're definitely not putting down roots. I mean, I've got one boy in high school and one boy in grade school, and so my wife is holding down the fort in New Jersey. And until this is definitively a smash hit, nobody's moving. That's just the way it is. Ideally, this is going to be an eight-month gig this year in doing the 22 episodes, but as it stands right now it's basically just one 5,000-mile commute.

So now it's the week of the show's premiere. What's this week like for you?

I'm hoping for an enthusiastic response, but like any nervous parent, I'm waiting for the event.

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metronews.ca
Thursday, September 27, 2012



Lucy Liu Watson stars in *Elementary*, a new show that airs on Global.
HANDOUT

Other new shows you don't want to miss

**AMBER
M RAY**
Metro World News

What else is on TV that may pique your interest this fall? Add these shows to your regular rotation of viewing if you're looking for something new.

Elementary

Jonny Lee Miller is Sherlock and Lucy Liu Watson in this update on Sir Arthur Conan

Doyle's famous detective.
Premieres tonight at 10 on Global

Beauty and the Beast

This is less Disney and more monster soap opera of the '80s.

The CW version is considered a reboot of the Beauty and the Beast fairy tale starring Linda Hamilton and Ron Perlman, with Kristin Kreuk and Jay Ryan playing modern takes

on the Catherine and Vincent characters.

Kreuk is an NYPD detective who has crossed paths with Ryan's mysterious doctor in the past — in his "creature" state, he once saved her life.

She reconnects with him, even though he was reportedly killed by enemy fire while serving in Afghanistan

Premieres Oct. 11, 9 p.m., Showcase

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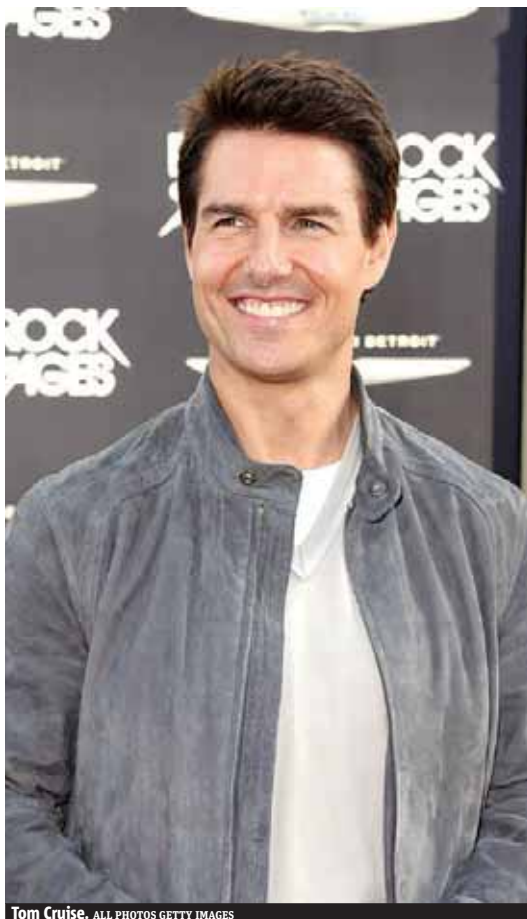
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Tom Cruise. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Tom Cruise struggling with divorce

Tom Cruise is reportedly struggling with the stress of a busy work schedule that's keeping him in London and his daughter, Suri, living with soon-to-be ex-wife Katie Holmes in New York.

"I've got to see her," an emotional Cruise reportedly told a friend recently, according to People magazine. "I miss her."

Cruise last spent time with his 6-year-old daughter on August 5, and a mid-September trip to London for the girl was reportedly called off.

Still, despite the struggle

Quote

"I've got to see her. I miss her."

Tom Cruise
Talking about his daughter.

for face-time, the actor is still keeping his daughter as a priority.

"I can tell you that I haven't had a meeting with Tom that was not interrupted by a phone call with his daughter," his friend, screenwriter Christopher McQuarrie said.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



Reality television plots not real; sky still blue



THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

The new issue of Us Weekly has a very entertaining cover story on how Bachelorette stars Emily Maynard and Jef Holm are faking their engagement.

I know, I know, it's hard to believe that two fame junkies pretended to be together on a rigged reality TV show to gain attention, but stay with me here.

Apparently, Holm's former girlfriend and current hook-up buddy (whom he was dating when he went on The Bachelorette) went

into tell-all mode to Us Weekly.

The ex, Kaylee Shepherd, says that Holm revealed to her that he and Maynard are faking it. In August, a texting scandal hit — Maynard was caught sexting with another man, which Us Weekly, the Woodward and Bernstein of tabloids, uncovered.

Maynard, desperate to preserve her good girl image, hatched a plan to pay off Holm with half of her Bachelorette money.

"Jef said their relationship isn't what it seems. It's all basically for TV," Shepherd tells Us.

It's all basically for TV?

You don't say. Next thing you know, you'll be telling me some actors and actresses get plastic surgery and take too many prescription drugs in order to fill the dark void that being famous created. Stop ruining my happy place, Us Weekly.



Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart

Pattinson moving back in with Stewart

It looks like the reconciliation between Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson is complete, as Pattinson has reportedly moved back into the Los Angeles home they share, according to Us Weekly.

"They are living together and have reconciled," a

source says, explaining that the pair recently "had a dramatic make-up."

But their relationship may still be on shaky ground in the wake of Stewart's cheating scandal, as the source says Pattinson "is extra-sensitive now. He's insecure."

Twitter



@kerrywashington

I met a very cute lizard today that needs a name. Suggestions?



@chelseahandler

I'm done with juice cleanses. I'm ditching gluten and dairy because apparently, I'm allergic to all things that give pleasure



@SethMacFarlane

Hey 30-year-old skating to work on a longboard: the world is sadder than you seem to realize. We had a 9/11 and everything.



@Joan_Rivers

Hillary Clinton is furious that Monica Lewinsky will earn millions for a book about sex with Bill because she's had to do it for free.

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Mamma mia, Milan!

Drawing inspiration from Art Nouveau, vintage cinema, the streets of Sicily and the '60s, designers who debuted their wears at Milan Fashion Week made us pine for a sparkling spring to come

TAMU MCPHERSON
life@metronews.ca



Roberto Cavalli

Roberto Cavalli's strong references to swirly Art Nouveau prints could be read as a homage to female beauty. The impressive all-white opening — which included a short sleeve crocodile jacket, embroidered lace tunic, draped fringe pants, a crisply tailored jacket and trousers — was the perfect primer for the decadently intricate collection that followed. The silhouettes were sophisticated, clean, elongated, flowy and, as is customary with Cavalli, tastefully racy.

Moschino

For SS13, Moschino's Rossella Jardini drew inspiration from a patchwork of two films, namely *Casino* and *Two for the Road*. The result: everything went minimal from geometric lines to strong graphic elements. For colour, the brand references its iconic black-and-white combo and for brights pays homage to the colourful textiles of Ken Scott, a textile designer who lived in Italy for many years. There was a nod to the '60s too, with dress coats, cutout dresses, cropped trouser suits, trompe l'oeil shirt dresses, and bold stripes.



Dolce & Gabbana

Have you ever been to Taormina in Sicily? No? Well, let Dolce & Gabbana take you there with their fun and colourful Spring 2013 collection. The duo took the audience from the Sicilian street theaters: wheelbarrows, elaborate wheels and Caltagirone ceramic heads to sun-drenched beaches with trendy beach umbrella and sunbed-style stripe pieces arriving in organza, rough, printed cotton, gold brocade and even Sicilian basket-esque raffia skirts and bustiers.



Giorgio Armani

Luminous and optimistic: the opening silk pearl-grey looks, all shown with trousers (wide and straight leg), arrived as a cloud's metaphorical silver lining. White shorts styled with soft-fitted jackets are unexpected but are nevertheless a special touch to this dressy collection. However, it was the evening wear that was gushingly beautiful with sparkly sequin beaded palazzo pants, shifts, jumpsuits, long-skirts, suits and dresses, to name but a few.



Versace

Donatella Versace showed a collection of strong tailoring and lingerie dressing in a colour palette of black, orange, blue, turquoise and nude. Classic menswear-inspired blazers were softened to a relaxed fit and adorned with lace inserts and cutouts. Slip dresses in crushed silk or tie-dye came slashed and held together with crisscross lacing, which also appeared on ultra-cool skinny trousers. For evening, sweeping chiffon gowns embellished with silver and gold fringing will surely sizzle on the red carpets.

On the web



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Lemon Cornmeal Cookies: Pleasant change from traditional sweetness

Lemon Cornmeal Cookies



This recipe makes about 84 cookies. EDWARD POND

"These rustic cornmeal S-shaped cookies are a delicious change of pace from traditional sweet cookies," write the The Canadian Living Test Kitchen chefs in 150 Essential Whole Grains. "The cornmeal gives them a pleasant crunch that goes well with a cup of tea. Dust them with icing sugar, if desired."

Ingredients

- 1 1/3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 1/3 cups fine stone-ground cornmeal
- 1 cup cold butter, cubed
- 3 egg yolks
- 1 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 1 tsp grated lemon zest

1. In large bowl, whisk flour with cornmeal; using pastry blender or 2 knives, cut in butter until crumbly.

2. Beat together egg yolks, brown sugar and vanilla until thickened, about 5 minutes. Scrape over flour mixture. Add lemon zest; beat at medium speed just until blended. (Dough will be stiff.)

3. On work surface and working with 1/4 cup batter at a time, roll and shape into 15-inch (38 cm) long ropes. Cut into 3-inch (8 cm) lengths; bend into S shapes. Place, 1 inch (2.5 cm) apart, on parchment paper-lined rimless baking sheets. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.

4. Bake in top and bottom thirds of 375 F (190 C) oven, rotating and switching pans halfway through, until golden, 10 to 12 minutes.

5. Let cool on pans on racks for 3 minutes. Transfer cookies to racks; let cool. (Make-ahead: Layer between waxed paper in airtight container and store for up to 4 days or freeze for up to 1 month.)

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Cookbook of the Week

Decoding ultra healthy foods



With Canadian Living's 150 Essential Whole Grain Recipes, incorporating superfoods into your everyday menus is easy.

The book clears up the mystery of cooking with grains and offers recipes that make the most of these nutritional powerhouses.

Each of the six informative chapters of this full-colour book focuses on a whole grain group. Chapters include: Whole Grain Basics, Wheat, Spelt and Kamut; Brown Rice and Wild Rice, Buckwheat and Rye, Quinoa, Corn and Millet; and Barley and Oats.

Tucked into each chapter are helpful sidebars profiling specific grains as well as expert cooking advice. METRO



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Stay cosy and frugal this season

Warm trends for fall.

You don't have to be a Rockefeller to add a bit of autumn luxury to your home



DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

Let's welcome fall this week without the pressures of spending lavish amounts of money on decorating.

I'm not quite ready for the cold weather so we'll add a few affordable touches of warmth around the house to help take the fall chill off.

Sometimes it's the simple pleasures that can get us through these seasonal changes, so let's save some money, because next week, it's all about the luxurious trends for winter decorating ahead.



In the bath

Step out of the shower to a soft and cozy Plush Pile Bath Rug made of pure cotton. Over 25 colours to choose (Shore shown) assures a designer match in the bathroom. From \$45, RestorationHardware.com.

In the den

Treat your feet to a chunky footrest woven from recycled fabric remnants cover the Recycled Pouf. \$99, CB2.com.



The great outdoors

Create warmth outside on the terrace with a lightweight and portable Table-top Pedestal Propane Heater. Operates on a one-pound propane tank and has a commercial-grade stainless burner, \$130, Sears.ca.



At the bed

Reminiscent of a 1940s bed jacket, Barbara Barry's pale blue Crescent Moon Quilt is a luxurious quilted layering piece with a silk look that adds a touch of glamour to a hotel-inspired bedroom. \$200/queen, TheBay.com.

At the desk

Keep your beavies warm while working or computer surfing with Salton's Electrical Mug Warmer. A white and simple design that blends with the modern desktop accessories. \$16, HomeHardware.ca.



Hand-held carpet cleaners are a great alternative to using professionals. ISTOCK

Clean your own carpet like the pros



CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

What is the best carpet stain remover that I can buy? I live on a farm, and having a professional come clean my carpet would be very expensive. I would like to do this on my own, I just don't know what to do.

Dear Carpet Cleaner,
I personally do not believe in

general carpet-cleaning products. What often happens is that if you actually have the right cleaner for the right stain, the cleaned area becomes bright and the remaining carpet stays dirty. When a professional cleans your carpet, first they treat the stain, then they traditionally clean the entire carpet area. This is the secret to avoiding discoloration.

What I have tried is a small hand-held carpet cleaner and at first I was convinced I would hate it. Yet, I soon fell in love!

What I use most often is the suction part of the appliance as soon as the spill occurs, then get the excess liquid out very fast. This has worked a few miracles for me. With a few tougher stains with mud and dirt, I followed up with the cleaning formula and it worked like a charm. But be careful; you don't need to run out and buy the biggest, most expensive one. In fact a small hand held is all I think anyone has room for, and easy enough to use on furniture, and carpets. Good Luck!

Shower curtains

Down sides to using PVC



QUEEN OF GREEN
Lindsay Coulter
green@metronews.ca

What's the eco-friendliest shower curtain?

Andrea of Ottawa

I'll tell you what's not: PVC or plastic number 3. If you have a shower curtain made from polyvinyl chloride (PVC), you should recycle it.

Polyvinyl chloride is known to off-gas hormone disrupting phthalates. Phthalates are used to soften plastics. You'll know PVC from other popular plastic products like food wrap, teething rings, pet toys and blister packaging. Remember that smell when you first opened the package? It's not unlike that "new car smell." What you smell is the release of volatile organic compounds (VOCs), phthalates and metals.

In fact, a study by the Centre for Health, Environment and Justice found that these chemicals are released into the air inside our homes, contributing to indoor air pollution. PVC shower curtains can release as many as 108 volatile



Ban PVC shower curtains from your home. ISTOCK

organic chemicals. Some of these chemicals are associated with developmental damage as well as damage to the liver and central nervous, respiratory, and reproductive systems. Not pretty.

Also, these chemicals are persistent. They were found in the air 28 days after a PVC shower curtain was unwrapped and hung! To prevent these chemicals from being released from PVC and ending up in our bodies and the environment it's best to choose an alternative.

Today, you can find shower curtains labelled

PVC-free at most home-design or department stores. These are made from a plastic called PEVA (polyethylene vinyl acetate) — made without the chlorine molecules. But it's still plastic.

A newer option on the market is a hemp shower curtain. But before you fork out the 90-plus dollars for this natural, biodegradable option, make sure your bathroom is well ventilated. While hemp shower curtains are naturally mildew and mould-resistant, they need to be left open and aired out to dry and laundered regularly.



JUPITERIMAGES/CREATAS/THINKSTOCK

KNOW THE RENO RULES

CODE COMPLIANCE IS OWNER'S DUTY

When planning a home renovation, people should look into the rules surrounding whether they need a permit.

Examples include all structural repairs or alterations, all interior and exterior renovations valued at more than \$5,000, and additions.

This is one of the reasons why people should contact HRM before proceeding with any work. People can also use this opportunity to find out what sort of documentation they are going to need to provide to HRM to receive a permit.

In general, people will need to provide HRM with a specification of the work to be completed, including as much technical information as possible. It is also possible that people may have to provide a

graphical representation of the work to be completed.

Regardless of whether a homeowner is carrying out a renovation themselves or has hired a contractor to do so, the homeowner is responsible for getting the permits.

"Code compliance is the responsibility of the homeowner," says Jim Donovan, HRM's manager of municipal compliance.

That being said, homeowners working with a contractor can set it up so that the contractor is the one who gets all the permits. The contract between the contractor and the homeowner should clearly indicate who will take on this task.

At the end of the day, it is still the responsibility of the homeowner to make sure everything is in order with the permits.

For people who are familiar with the rules surrounding permits for new home construction, the good news is the process

is remarkably similar for renovations.

To get a permit, people must visit one of HRM's three customer service centres, which are located in Halifax, Dartmouth and Sackville.

People should expect to receive a permit within five business days of submitting a complete application.

For those looking to learn more about the permit process, the Permits & Inspec-

PERMIT FEES

For renovation-type work, including structural alterations and repairs, the permit fee is \$5.50 per \$1,000 of the estimated value of construction when complete. There is a permit fee of \$25.

— Source: HRM's Renos: Additions & Renovations guide.

tions portion of HRM's website features a lot of great information which helps clear up the process.

— Richard Woodbury

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PREPARATION KEY

DO HOMEWORK WHEN HIRING CONTRACTOR

Before somebody goes about finding a contractor for their home renovation, it's crucial they figure out what exactly they want to do.

"The huge thing is preparation," says Paul Pettipas, the CEO of the Nova Scotia Home Builders' Association (NSHBA).

He says it's crucial that before undertaking a renovation, people think about

things like what their long-term plans are for the home.

For example, if somebody is looking to sell the home within a few years, then you might want to take into account what sorts of things appeal to prospective home buyers with your renovations.

Once the time has come to find a contractor for the job, Pettipas recom-



PHOTOS.COM/THINKSTOCK

mends checking with friends, family and colleagues for references.

"Find out what kind of renovations they do," he says. "If you're looking for a whole-house renovation and you're talking to someone who specializes in bathrooms, they may not be the right one."

It is also a wise idea to find out if the builder belongs to organizations such as the NSHBA or the Better Business Bureau.

Another certification worth looking for is called RenoMark. New to Nova Scotia — but already in place elsewhere across the country — RenoMark renovators must agree to conditions such as abiding by a code of ethics, providing a detailed, written contract, and carrying a minimum of \$2 million in liability insurance.

If the contractor has won awards for their work, this usually means they have met the criteria of a third party.

Once meeting with a prospective contractor, don't hesitate to ask questions — and lots of them.

"You won't offend reputable firms with questions," says the website of the Canada Mortgage Housing Corporation (CMHC). "If a contractor doesn't seem to know much about the technical details of the job or doesn't want to talk about them, you may have the wrong contractor."

CMHC's website is an excellent resource for detailed information about the entire renovation process.

It is important that people feel comfortable working with a prospective contractor, especially given that renovations can take months to complete.

"Make sure you are comfortable right up front with that renovator because if you're not, you're going to see their face for a long time," says Pettipas.

— Richard Woodbury

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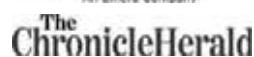


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Scotian Homes	13 White Rd., Enfield
Scotian Homes	111 Sawgrass Dr., Oakfield
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The 17,000-sq.-ft. facility is part of a 37,000-sq.-ft. complex that also includes a Home Hardware, an authorized Bell Aliant dealer and a café/pizza shop.

Windsor Home Furniture carries both Canadian and imported furniture.

"We do imports, but we have a focus on providing Canadian-made furniture," says Woodman.

The store carries Canadian brands such as Stylus Sofas and Brentwood Classics.

For electronic products, it carries products by manufacturers such as Panasonic, Samsung and LG. On the appliance side, it is an exclusive Frigidaire appliance provider.

For mattresses, Windsor Home Furniture is an exclusive Sealy retailer.

One of the unique things about Windsor Home Furniture is Gallery 1876, an art gallery located within the furniture



store that offers a venue for local artists to display their work. It is a great option for people looking to display some local artwork in their home.

"We're very community-oriented," says Woodman, noting that while Windsor Home Furniture sells the artwork, it does

not collect any fee or commission from the artist in exchange for selling it.

Making a purchase at Windsor Home Furniture is also made easier by the fact that the retailer makes delivery trips to metro multiple times a week for a nominal charge.

HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR RENOVATION DOLLARS

When you want to improve the value of your home, get the most out of the money you spend on renovations with a few easy remodelling tips from Sally Morse, director of creative services for window fashions company Hunter Douglas:

STORAGE SPACE: An attic or basement that hasn't been cleaned out in years is a waste of valuable space. Start by clearing out your storage areas and organizing

their contents. Uncluttering your home will instantly make it look bigger and cleaner.

WINDOW SHUTTERS: One of the best ways to add value is at the window. The refreshed, fashionable Palm Beach polysatin shutters with the DuraLux finish by Hunter Douglas are virtually indistinguishable from finely painted ones — making these shutters an excellent investment choice.

MODERN BATHROOMS: Just by making a few changes in your bathroom you can create a more attractive and comfortable space, as well as increase the value of your home significantly. Updating simple fixtures such as your faucet and sink, or adding in a bath, can give any outdated bathroom new style.

AN UPDATED KITCHEN: Gone are the days of the purely utilitarian kitchen. Today,

kitchens require a balance between functionality and personal style. Invest in a new kitchen table that is both serviceable and aesthetically pleasing.

Ever wondered what to do with that dining room you never use? A lot of families are doing away with the tradition of having a separate dining room by joining the two rooms. That way you get added space and value.

— News Canada

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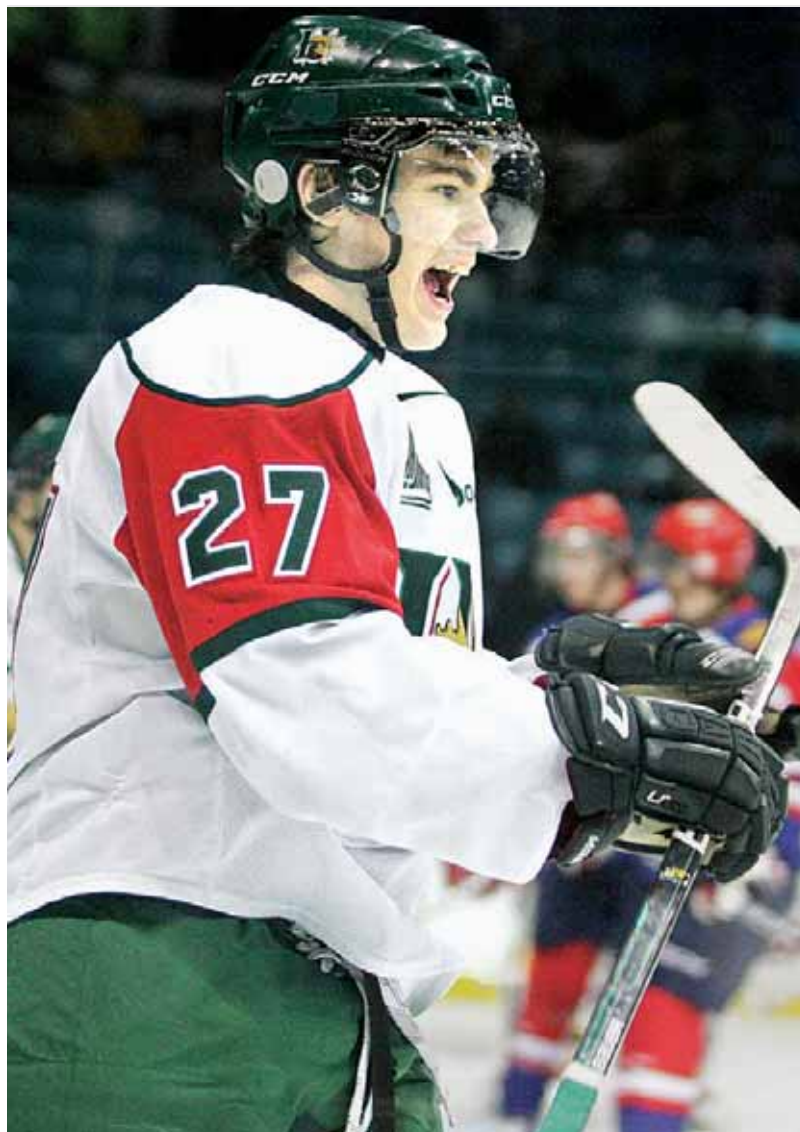
Mobile sports



Qriket

Washington's Robert Griffin III is so good it hurts. The Redskins rookie quarterback has been taking a beating because he's so good at pretending that he still has the ball after he's handed it off.

Drouin makes leap from no-show to show-stopper



Mooseheads forward Jonathan Drouin. METRO FILE

QMJHL. Skilled 17-year-old forward gaining confidence as points start to pile up



MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

A year ago, Jonathan Drouin no-showed on the opening day of Halifax Mooseheads training camp, uncertain about whether he could make the jump to the QMJHL. It's safe to say those self-doubts have been erased.

Drouin, who eventually joined the Mooseheads midway through last season, has made all kinds of headlines so far this season, earning Canadian Hockey League player-of-the-week honours on Tuesday after a seven-point outburst in two opening-weekend road victories.

The 17-year-old left-winger has been nothing short of dominant, picking up where he left off from a breakthrough 26-point showing in 17 playoff games last April.

"It's a good start points-wise," Drouin said. "Basically I tried to bring that (momentum) from the playoffs into this season. I started really well and my confidence went up. It goes up every game, still."

Already tabbed as an honourable mention on TSN.ca's top-10 ranking for the 2013 NHL draft and drawing comparisons to Edmonton Oilers star Jordan Eberle, Drouin's opening-weekend play is a sign he may put himself on that list by season's end.

Already one of the most talented and offensively creative players the Mooseheads have ever had, Drouin is not

More Moose news

- The Mooseheads moved up one spot to No. 5 in the Canadian Hockey League's weekly top-10 ranking Wednesday.
- The team is calling defenceman Steve Gillard "doubtful" for this weekend's home games with a lower-body injury.

only more confident than last season, he's much stronger.

"People don't really push me around anymore," said Drouin, who is now five-foot-11 and checks in at close to 190 pounds. "Last year I got pushed around by bigger guys, but now I'm used to it, and I've got some more pounds on so I'm better with that."

It obviously doesn't hurt playing on a line with centre Nathan MacKinnon, a 17-year-old who has the top spot in the TSN.ca ranking. Drouin's slick puck skills and uncanny hockey sense are an ideal complement to MacKinnon's speed and power.

The young guns had instant chemistry when they became linemates last season and they've quickly become friends away from the rink as well.

"We're buddies — I drop him off and pick him up from school every day and we hang out all the time," MacKinnon said. "That translates on the ice. If you're not friends off the ice, you're not going to gel on the ice."

MacKinnon says Drouin "didn't get enough credit" for adjusting so quickly to the QMJHL last season and is excited to see what he can do in a full year with the Mooseheads.

"He's only going to get better," MacKinnon said.

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NSBL

Moose Dry can't finish off Wildcats as series resumes

The Kentville Wildcats stayed alive in the Nova Scotia Senior Baseball League final on Wednesday night.

The Wildcats got past Dartmouth Moosehead Dry 6-4 at Beazley Field, avoiding a sweep in the best-of-seven series and forcing a Game

5 on Friday at 7:30 p.m. in Kentville.

Cody Schreider earned the win for the Wildcats, while Billy MacKenzie knocked in two runs on three singles and Ian Lockhart helped out with two singles and an RBI. Cam Marling took the loss for Dartmouth and Matt Thomas and Justin Stephens had two singles apiece.

Dartmouth is in search of its eighth championship in the past 10 years.

METRO

AUS Soccer. Huskies settle for draw in Wolfville

There's still a tie at the top of the Atlantic University Sport men's soccer standings.

The Saint Mary's Huskies battled the Acadia Axemen to a scoreless draw on Wednesday night in Wolfville, leaving the two teams tied for first overall with 14 points apiece.

Keeper Adam Miller recorded the shutout for the Huskies, who remained unbeaten at 4-0-2, while Eric Ross posted the clean sheet for the Axemen (4-1-2).

The Huskies, last year's Canadian Interuniversity Sport silver medallists, are ranked fourth in the country.

In the women's game, Michelle Yates scored for Saint Mary's in a 1-1 tie with Acadia as the seventh-place Huskies (1-



Saint Mary's midfielder Derek Gaudet, right, fights for the ball with Zach Shaffelburg of Acadia during AUS action on Wednesday night in Wolfville.

ERIC CEDERBERG/ACADIA ATHLETICS

2-3) picked up a point. METRO

MLB

Orioles keep pace with Yankees with blowout of Jays

Chris Davis and Manny Machado each connected twice and the Baltimore Orioles tied a team record

with seven home runs, routing Toronto 12-2 Wednesday night and staying within 1 1/2 games of the AL East lead.

The Orioles ended a two-game losing skid against the Blue Jays and remained close to the division-leading New York Yankees, who won 8-2 in Minnesota.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

McIlroy focused on fitting in with the team

Golf. 'This week, I'm not the No. 1 player in the world,' young star says ahead of Ryder Cup



Rory McIlroy drives during practice at Medinah Country Club, just outside of Chicago, on Wednesday. JAMIE SQUIRE/GETTY IMAGES

Quoted



"There's something about Ryder Cup which kind of intrigues me, how you can be great mates with somebody, but boy, do you want to kill them in Ryder Cup."

Englishman Ian Poulter on the intensity of international competition

team.

McIlroy doesn't see it that way. "This week I'm not the No. 1 player in the world," he said Wednesday. "I'm one person in a 12-man team, and that's it. It's a team effort. There's 12 guys all striving toward the same goal. I'm just

part of that."

But even in this team competition, it's easy to get wrapped up in a single star.

There's only one way to keep score in the Ryder Cup, though it's tempting to make individuals accountable. Even when Woods was at his best,

Field of dreams

Both teams look strong with all 24 players among the top 35 in the world.

- The Americans are loaded with experience behind Tiger Woods, Jim Furyk and Phil Mickelson.

- Europe has only one Ryder Cup rookie, Nicolas Colsaerts, and has captured the cup six of the last eight times.

he still could only deliver a maximum of five points if he played every match. He never came close, and didn't produce a winning record until his fifth Ryder Cup.

"I don't have a number. I don't have a total," McIlroy said. "I think with the U.S. playing here at home, I think they are the favourites. It's a very strong team. So we know we have got to go out there and play very, very well to have a chance. So if I play on Friday morning, I just want to get my point and then take it from there." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL. Reports say sides 'closing in' on new referee deal

With NFL commissioner Roger Goodell at the table, the league and the referees' union pressed toward a settlement Wednesday to end a three-month lockout that triggered a wave of frustration and anger over replacement officials.

Two days after a controversial call cost the Green Bay

Packers a win, both sides were said to be nearing a deal and several reports put regular officials back at work perhaps as early as Sunday.

ESPN reported that "an agreement in principle is at hand." The New York Times said the sides "were closing in" on a new agreement.

The NFL declined to confirm that a tentative contract was imminent.

The union wants improved salaries, retirement benefits and other logistical issues for the mostly part-time referees.

The NFL has proposed a pension freeze and a higher 401(k) match. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"We want to go back to work, but it has to be the right deal for 121 guys."

NFL field judge Boris Cheek



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Horoscopes

Aries

March 21 - April 20

You will find yourself caught up in a conflict of some kind and you'll have no choice but to take sides. But which side to support? The one that is least likely to desert you in your own moment of need.

Taurus

April 21 - May 21

Apply common sense to whatever situation you find yourself in today. Also, make sure you keep your tongue firmly behind your teeth, whatever the provocation may be. This is not a good time to be honest!

Gemini

May 22 - June 21

It may be tempting to hit back at those who are giving you a hard time, but the more bad things you say now, the more work will have to be done later to patch things up. Let go of vengeful thoughts.

Cancer

June 22 - July 23

Cancer is a cardinal sign, which among other things means you are ready to fight for what you believe — and you may have to today. Don't let anyone take from you what you don't want to give — not now, not ever.

Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

No matter how strong you think your arguments may be, you cannot force others to do things they don't want to do and the sooner you accept that fact, the easier your life will be — and theirs too.

Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

If you know what is good for you, any chores and tasks that need doing will be left for the weekend. Today, your priority is to patch up a friendship or relationship that has been heading downhill.

Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Today's cosmic picture urges you to find a creative way to bleed off the anger and frustration that has been building up inside. Getting your feelings down on paper is an especially good idea — but don't publish them!

Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

You are entitled to express your viewpoint forcefully but you are not entitled to stop others from expressing their opinions. Free speech is a right worth fighting for — for everyone, not just yourself.

Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

It may be the case that you have grown so comfortable doing something one way that you have failed to notice there are better ways to reach your goal. Move with the times. Not everything modern is bad.

Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

Being a Capricorn, you enjoy it when the odds are against you, as it gives you a chance to prove how dynamic you are. While others are complaining that life is too tough, you'll just be getting on with it.

Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

If you apply yourself to the problem at hand, it won't be a problem for long. There is a determination about Aquarius that helps you tackle issues that others too easily give up on. Show that resolve now.

Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

Take no notice of those who say you are being irresponsible. They are merely jealous. Today's planetary set-up means it is better to be a bit reckless than take no risks at all. Do what feels right — and do it now. **SALLY BROMPTON**

Olio Is a Mixture; the Other One's Here

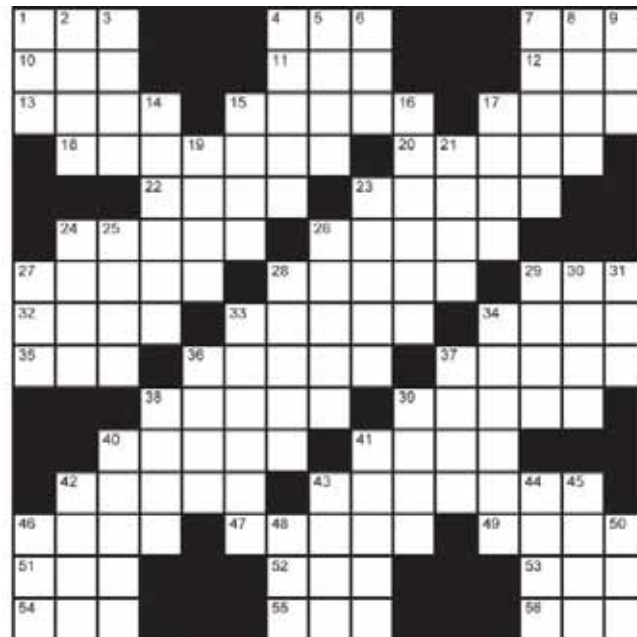
Across

- Our star
- Official Parliament opposition: initialism
- "Finger-lickin' good" restaurant: initialism
- Sean Lennon's mother Yoko
- Consume
- Society page adjective that means "born" in French
- Prevaricator
- Halifax-born singer McLachlan
- Remove outside layer, as from an apple
- IMAX
- Checks out suggestively
- Grandson of Adam who reputedly lived to 905
- Eightsome
- Race, as an engine (2 wds.)
- Territory whose capital is Whitehorse
- Canadian military trainee
- Distinct musical sounds
- Apply gingerly, with "on"
- Great poker start
- Impertinent
- Dorothy's dog
- Iniquity site
- Chile con
- Cheech's Edmonton-born partner
- "How are you?"
- Oldsmobile model discontinued in 2004
- "Mr. Tambourine Man" and "Mr. Spaceman"

- group, with "The"
- Evidence of healing
- Makes a run for it
- Anthem with English and French versions (2 wds.)
- Chunk of dirt
- Traditional Stamped-rival
- National Park just across the Alberta-BC border from Banff
- Do this on bended knees
- "Big" clock in London
- And not
- Audiophile's collection
- Bon ____ : witticism
- Potato bud

Down

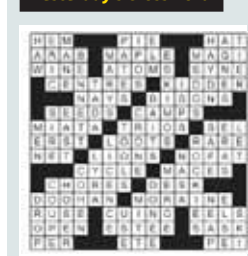
- Our sun
- Litre, metre, or tonne
- Biblical ark builder
- Approaches
- "Bet you can't," e.g.
- School fund-raising grp.
- Committed a hockey infraction
- Bank assessments
- Cartoon collectible
- Beirut-born Canadian star of *The Matrix* series Keanu
- "Halt!"
- What many consider Canada's national game
- Architect's design
- "What are you, some kind of ____?" (2 wds.)
- Bygone Pontiac muscle cars



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- 28.35 grams
- 100-metre dash, e.g.
- Where Adam and Eve started
- Toronto-born Neil called "The Godfather of Grunge"
- Boulder
- England's Lake District lakes
- Exit or entrance
- time: never (2 wds.)
- Marsh
- "Because I ____!": parent's response to "Why do I have to?" (2 wds.)
- Canada's best known retailer, familiarly (2 wds.)
- Apple eater's throw-away
- Tribe
- Not the original color
- Hertz Rent-_-
- Promotes oneself online
- A bloodhound follows one
- Took off
- Margarine
- Finished
- Sailor's hail
- This Hour Has 22 Minutes* network
- PC maker
- Bauxite or hematite

Yesterday's Crossword



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Yesterday's Sudoku



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